

1. A method of installing a prosthesis onto a distal femur having an
2 intramedullary canal so that the joint is restored with respect to the patellar femoral joint
in the distal plane, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 4 installing a rod or stem having a first end positioned within the intramedullary
canal and a second end that remains exposed;
 - 6 coupling a referencing fixture to the second end of the rod or stem;
measuring the extent of the lateral femoral condyle or trochlear region using the
8 referencing fixture; and
installing the prosthesis in accordance with the extent of the lateral femoral
10 condyle or trochlear region, as measured with the referencing fixture.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of installing the prosthesis
2 includes the step of resecting the distal femur in accordance with the extent of the lateral
femoral condyle or trochlear region, as measured with the referencing fixture.
3. The method of claim 2, including the step of placing a spacer between the
2 referencing fixture and the lateral femoral condyle or trochlear region.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of installing the prosthesis
2 includes the step of providing distal femoral and proximal tibial components having
bone-contacting and articulating surfaces which account for the extent of the lateral
4 femoral condyle or trochlear region, as measured with the referencing fixture.

5. A method of preparing a distal femur having an intramedullary canal for
2 primary arthroplasty, comprising the steps of:
4 installing a rod or stem having a first end positioned within the intramedullary
canal and a second end that remains exposed;
6 coupling a referencing fixture to the second end of the rod or stem;
8 measuring the extent of the lateral femoral condyle or trochlear region using the
referencing fixture; and
10 resecting the distal femur in accordance with the extent of the lateral femoral
condyle or trochlear region, as measured with the referencing fixture.

12 6. The method of claim 5, including the step of placing a spacer between the
referencing fixture and the lateral femoral condyle or trochlear region.

14 7. When installing a prosthesis onto a distal femur having a trochlear region,
2 an improvement to promote restoration with respect to the patellar femoral joint in the
distal plane, comprising:
4 increasing the depth of the trochlea with increasing implant size so as to optimize
the patella femoral mechanics.

16 8. A method of resecting a distal femur having prominent and non-prominent
2 condyles separated by a trochlear region, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) installing a fixture onto the distal femur which references the non-prominent condyle or trochlear region; and
- b) resecting the femur in accordance with the reference made in (a).

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of installing a fixture onto the distal femur includes the step of:

2 placing an intramedullary rod in the distal femur having a movable guide; and
4 moving the guide until the guide touches the non-prominent condyle or trochlear region.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein:
2 the femur has a longitudinal axis; and
the resection is substantially transverse to the longitudinal axis.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the resection is a distal cut.

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12. Apparatus for resecting a distal femur having prominent and non-prominent condyles separated by a trochlear region, comprising:
2 a fixture including a movable member which references one of the non-prominent and trochlear regions; and
4 a cutting guide to resect the femur in accordance with the reference made using
6 the fixture.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the fixture further includes:
2 an intramedullary rod; and
a reference guide movable on the rod.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the fixture further includes a medial-to-lateral slide to which the reference guide attaches, enabling either condyle or the trochlear region to be used as a reference for subsequent resection.

15. The apparatus of claim 12, further including a prosthesis installable on the
2 distal femur in accordance with the resection made with the cutting guide.

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